



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

Contact: T. Wayne Kirwan, 410-313-2108
wkirwan@howardcountymd.gov

January 12, 2018

Columbia Man, 20, Convicted of Attempted Rape

A 20-year-old Columbia man, scheduled to be tried on attempted rape and assault charges, entered an Alford plea to a single count of attempted second-degree rape in Ellicott City on Wednesday. Jonathan Mauric Tejada-Flores, of the 5200 block of Turnabout Lane entered his plea before Howard County Circuit Court Judge Richard S. Bernhardt. An Alford plea is a guilty plea that a defendant enters as part of a plea bargain, without actually admitting guilt.

Howard County police arrested Tejada-Flores near where the attack occurred, along a footpath close to the intersection of Little Patuxent Parkway and Governor Warfield Parkway in Columbia's Town Center. Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Ritter told the court that approximately 11 p.m. on June 4, Tejada-Flores approached an 18-year-old woman walking along the footpath and asked her several times for a cigar. He then grabbed her, pushed her up against a nearby wall and began kissing and biting her neck as he sexually assaulted her. The victim fought back, punching Tejada-Flores while he kicked her and put her in a headlock.

During the fight, Tejada-Flores pulled down the victim's shorts while attempting to remove his own pants. When the woman fought her attacker, he attempted to run away but she chased him and marched him to The Gramercy at Town Center Apartments where she knocked on several doors imploring residents to call the police. Tejada-Flores then brandished a knife and forced the woman back to the scene of their initial encounter where he was taken into custody by police.

Ritter stated that had the case gone to trial, she would have produced Tejada-Flores' knife, found the next day, where the victim saw him discard it. Ritter presented photographs of the victim, showing a bite mark and scratches on her neck as well as scratches on her hand.

Judge Bernhardt set a sentencing date of May 17 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation. Ritter told the court she will seek a 15-year sentence, suspending all but six years.

#